The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

WHOLE NO. 1985 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1949 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 39, NO. 17

Engineers Honor Members Engaged in Rescue Effort

Nick Phillips, left, one of 23 members of the International Union of Operating Engineers honored by the union for their efforts in valiant rescue attempts to save the life of little Kathy Fiscus who fell into an abandoned well in San Marino, Calif., received an award from J. C. Fitzgerald, district representative for the union. Phillips operated a crane for 42 hours during the frenzied rescue period.

Hollywood.—H. E. Maloney, president of the AFL's International Union of Operating Engineers, issued citations to 23 members of the union for their heroic but vain efforts to rescue little Kathy Fiscus, who was imprisoned in an abandoned well-casing over 90 feet below the surface at San Marino, Calif.

Presentation of the awards was made by John C. Fitzgerald, Southwest district representative of the union, in ceremonies held in the studios of radio station KFWB, which is owned and operated by the Hollywood Ladies Garment Workers Union.

These were the men who did the vitally important above-ground work at the top of the abandoned well shaft. They were the men who operated the caisson drilling machinery that dug the rescue shaft. They operated the big clamshell shovels that were used to dig the major excavation that failed to reach the imprisoned infant. They were the men who, for long, agonizing hours operated the crane that held the well-casing in place around the rescue shaft. They lowered men into the shaft, pulled them out, raised buckets of muck from the tunnel operations at the bottom of the shaft, and, in the last sad moments of tragedy, lifted Bill Yancey and his partner up to safety as they got out of the dark ground that had held her for more than 52 hours.

In addition to medals and scrolls given to the men who participated in the rescue, the union also honored 8 companies who donated the use of their equipment to the rescue operation.

The attractive parchment scroll carried the following citation:

"The International Union of Operating Engineers feels a responsibility and indebtedness for services above and beyond the call of duty, for heroic and unselfish devotion to humanity and for the highest traditions and responsibilities of the Engineers Union. This award is a token of appreciation and sincere admiration for a valiant contribution to the superhuman efforts of volunteers who worked unceasingly for 52 hours to rescue little Kathy Fiscus from the dark prison in which she was entombed and lost her life at San Marino, Calif., on April 8, 9, 10, 1949."

Retail Prices Rise Slightly in March; BLS Index Up First Time in 6 Months

Washington.—The consumers' price index, which had declined steadily over a 5-month period, went up slightly in the monthly period ending March 15, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Retail prices of goods and services bought by moderate-income families in large cities rose 0.3 percent. This resulted largely from a 1 percent rise in the cost of foods, and was not unexpected, the BLS said.

Miscellaneous goods and services and rents also showed increases. Apparel and housefurnishings prices continued to decline.

On March 15 the bureau's index was 160.5 percent of the 1935-39 average, or was 1.6 percent higher than March, 1948, 72 percent above the average for August, 1939, and was nearly 3 percent below the postwar peak reached in August and September, 1948.

Food prices had declined steadily since July 15 until the latest report. Most important factors in the February-March rise were rises in beef, fresh pork and lamb prices.

The change in food prices among the 56 cities surveyed ranged from an advance of 2.6 percent in Scranton, Pa., to a decline of 1.4 percent in San Francisco. The food price rise in New York was 1.3 percent.

Prices of fruits and vegetables, up slightly over the month, were at the highest level since June, 1948. Increases for the fresh and dried groups were more than offset a decrease for canned foods.

Average retail prices of apparel declined 0.6 percent between mid-February to mid-March, to continue the downward trend of the last 5 months. Prices generally were about 4 percent below the postwar peak reached in October, 1948.

The movement of prices of individual commodities varied greatly from city to city, but declines occurred in most cities in men's work clothing, pajamas and shirts, women's wear, boys' furnishings, rayon wash goods and home furnishings. Prices of wool clothing were slightly higher in most cities over the month.

Green Hails Union Industries Show; Says Event Stands For Decent Progress

Washington.—AFL President William Green gave his full support to the coming Union Industries Show to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from May 18 to 22.

The show, another in the series of annual events sponsored by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department, promises to exceed in every way the record-breaking exposition staged last year in Milwaukee, according to plans which have been announced by L. M. Ornburn, show director and secretary-treasurer of the department.

"I hope that all of you who can do so will visit the Union Industries Show," Mr. Green said, "to see for yourselves the high quality of union label merchandise on display there.

"The union label stands for everything that is fine, constructive and decent in the industrial life of the nation. Just as the American flag represents freedom, the union label symbolizes the highest form of industrial progress.

"As we marvel at the beauty and precision and usefulness of the products of our machine age, we must pay tribute to the inventive genius and remarkable skill which went into their manufacture. Yet these alone would not have been sufficient to do the job and bring such products within the reach of the public. It took sound investment, intelligent management and plenty of hard work to perform our industrial miracles.

"Once we recognize these facts, we begin to comprehend the structure of our free enterprise system. Money alone will produce nothing. Neither will management genius; nor, for that matter, skilled labor, unless it is properly organized and directed. Together they form a perfect team which can produce the high quality merchandise which the consuming public requires. That is the purpose of the Union Industries Show in Cleveland."

HOME BUILDING HIGH IN '48

Washington.—Home building last year almost equalled the boom of 1925, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The total was 932,200 dwellings, compared with the record of 937,000. However, the pace has slackened and the first quarter of this year is 22,000 behind the same period of 1948.

Truman Urges National Health Program Based on Contributing Insurance Plan

Washington.—President Truman appealed to Congress for the early approval of a national health program "to make available enough medical services to go around, and to see that everybody has a chance to obtain these services."

To accomplish this purpose, bills were introduced in both houses of Congress to provide a compulsory insurance system as the only democratic approach to a demonstrated national need.

This controversial feature of the program, which has the backing of the American Federation of Labor, immediately raised a storm of protest from opposing groups ranging from the American Medical Association to the Daughters of the American Revolution. These groups freely let loose with verbal barrages which had for their central theme the old well-worn charge that the President's program was "socialized" medicine.

Within Congress itself strong opposition is expected from Senator Robert A. Taft and his supporters, who are plugging for federal aid to the states for medical care purposes based on the charity principle.

The administration measure provides that employer and employe contribute 11 percent each on payroll into a personal health services account from which the funds would be made to doctors for comprehensive medical care of about 85 percent of the country's population.

The agreement would be levied on the first $4,800 of individual income so that the largest contribution by any person would be $72 a year. The payroll tax would be used to add to this appropriations amounting to one-half of 1 percent of payrolls through 1954 and 1 percent each thereafter through 1959.

This insurance would cover care not only of the individual worker but all of his immediate family.

The program would be administered by a national health insurance board of 5 persons, working in consultation with a national advisory medical policy council of 17 members. Three members of the board would be named by the President, at least one of whom must be a doctor. The other two would be the surgeon general of the Public Health Service and the commissioner of social security.

Actual operation of the program would rest in the states, where plans would be formulated. If states failed to institute programs the health insurance board would be required to do the job.

Local committees made up of both doctors and laymen would administer the program in the communities. They would set fees determined by a majority of the doctors themselves.

Major provisions of the administration program, beyond its financing and operation, all running in cost to approximately $4,000,000,000 a year:

Aid to medical education of all types, including provision for expansion of plant, direct aid to the institutions and scholarships.

A broad medical research program, with expansion of medical construction, doubling the present $15,000,000 annual program for this purpose.

An elaborate program of grants, loans and other incentives to train competent medical skills and facilities in areas where they are needed most, with a $35,000,000 appropriation for the first year.

Extension of the present program of grants-in-aid for maternal and child health and crippled children services, doubling the $11,000,000 a year appropriation of $25,000,000 for various programs.

David Dubinsky Honored For Distinguished Service

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—Mayor William O'Dwyer's executive officer of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union was celebrated last night by hundreds of friends who gathered to honor the distinguished public servants and liberal spokesmen.

It was an occasion which not only was a personal tribute for President David Dubinsky, but one which speaker after speaker stressed the need for democratic planning in order to achieve security with freedom and prosperity high on the list of America's immediate needs.

The climactic moment of the celebration came with the presentation of a scroll signed by President William Green of the AFL. In presenting the scroll, President Green said:

"I am now participating in one of the most pleasant experiences in all my life. I am moved deeply by the significance of this wonderful occasion. The dinner tendered to David Dubinsky is well prepared by the League for Industrial Democracy which sponsored the celebration.

"During the last 29 years you have served as secretary-treasurer and for most of the time as president of the ILGWU. You have given the union the best of your great ability, rare common sense, constructive imagination and unflinching devotion.

"Under the inspiration of your leadership, and with the cooperation of its loyal officers and members, the ILGWU has become one of the nation's most powerful and socially-visioned labor unions in the country. It has raised to a remarkable degree the economic standards of its members. It has helped to bring increasing order and efficiency to the organization of the dress industry and has been a constructive force for the settlement of disputes. It has been the implacable foe of racketeering, racial and religious discrimination and corruption in every type.

"While playing a monumental part in the above achievements of your union, you have contributed much outside the union to countless causes of a public good.

"A major tribute was paid by Norman Thomas in the course of a letter to Professor John Dewey, distinguished philosopher and honorary member of the League for Industrial Democracy, in which he said: 'Honoring Mr. David Dubinsky . . . I feel that you do more than felicitate a friend. David Dubinsky . . . has had wisdom, integrity and courage. I feel that he, too, will value the testimonial to him because it will show that a few devoted men and women in this country and women of this country who, while seeking to advance their mutual interests, have served the democratic cause well.' Dubinsky's whole career is a living witness of the forward progress of collective bargaining from mere sore of peace.

Speeches by Premier T. C. Douglas of Saskatchewan, Canada, Gordon R. Clapp, head of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Roger Baldwin, William Williams, British journalist, on the theme of "democratic planning for safety and peace," were broadcast over the ABC network and introduced by President Dubinsky, who called for the reinstitution of a "quarantine" against totalitarian policy against the Soviet Union such as was suggested by President Roosevelt against Nazi Germany.

Other speakers included Mayor O'Dwyer and Mr. Dubinsky.

"But it is also, like Fascism, a highly contagious disease. It is injected into other nations by spies and saboteurs, and it spreads among thousands of organizations with sweet-sounding titles. It strikes with the quiet of arsenic and with the violence of a bomb. Communism is a totalitarian regime, like all others, insists upon infecting all the world with its peculiar sickness. Communism is not a Russian problem: it is a world problem.

"To maintain our health and freedom, we must put Communism in quarantine. And that means more than just placing geographic limits on the expansion of Russia's empire. We must deny the Communists in our midst the cloak of respectability and the stamp of approval. We must take positive steps to defend and to strengthen democracy. We must give democracy economic strength. That is the meaning of our aid, financial and moral, to the free trade unions of Europe; and that is why we must promote the growth of democratic socialism where the people of Europe so desire.

"We must give democracy material and military strength to defend itself against a Soviet offensive or to discourage such an offensive from ever being undertaken. That is the meaning of the Atlantic Pact. Finally, we must strengthen world democracy by setting a worthy example. We must get rid of our own Black Reaction. That is why we must repeal the Taft-Hartley law. We must end degradation and discrimination. We must provide security for our youth, to care for all our sick, to give work to all who want to labor."

Building Wages Show Slight Gain

Washington.—Basic wage scales of union workers in the construction industry rose two-tenths of 1 percent during the first quarter of 1949, compared to a rise of 1.6 percent in the same period of 1948, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced on the basis of its quarterly survey of 7 major trades in 85 cities.

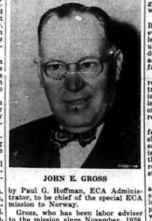
Higher wage scales were negotiated for some of the crafts in 27 of the 85 cities and affected about 4 percent of the 500,000 workers covered by the survey. In the same period in 1948 it reported that negotiations for new agreements were in effect on April 1.

Between April 1, 1948 and April 1, 1949, union wage scales in building trades advanced 9 percent, compared to an increase of 11 percent during the previous year. The bureau's estimate of the average pay scale of union workers in all construction trades was $2.17 an hour on April 1, 1949.

Since July 1939 union wage scales have advanced 68 percent while a rise of 72 percent has occurred in the Consumers' Price Index up to March 1949.

Labor Man Named ECA Mission Head

Washington.—The highly important role which labor is playing in the Marshall Plan was given greater recognition here with the announcement that John E. Gross, former official of the AFL's Colorado State Federation of Labor, has been named



JOHN E. GROSS

by Paul G. Hoffman, ECA Administrator, to be chief of the ECA mission to Norway.

Gross has been labor adviser to the mission since November, 1948, when Hoffman decided to put an American labor movement to be actively represented in each of the 16 nations participating in the European Recovery Program.

For 15 years Gross was secretary-treasurer of the Colorado State Federation of Labor. He had previously been a coal miner, secretary of his president and president. His activities in the American trade union movement date back to 1910, when he became a member of the International Association of Machinists.

Shortly after the United States entered World War II, Gross was appointed a regional director of the U. S. Employment Service. He also served as regional director of the War Manpower Commission for Region XI, comprising the states of Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Montana.

Gross was educated in the public schools in Pueblo, Colo. After completing his apprenticeship in 1914, he worked in steel mills and railroad contract and engineering shops. During this time he attended night classes on industrial relations. While working for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, his employers brought W. L. McKenzie King, recently Canada's prime minister, to Colorado to establish an employer-employe relations program. The plan was later supplemented by legislation which established the first industrial commission law of Colorado.

Clinton S. Golden and Ben H. Jewell, labor advisers to Hoffman, issued the following statement on the Gross appointment: "John Gross is eminently qualified for his new post because of his past experience, both with the labor movement and the government in this country. His experience in the early days of participation of the United States labor movement in the administration of the Marshall Plan. Certainly the choice of his appointment will be welcomed by the labor groups of Norway with whom he has been working."

Recent Price Drop Aids French Worker

Paris.—There's good news at the market these days for the French housewife—but it's not quite good enough.

For the first time since the liberation, prices have shown a reduction—almost 6 percent in the past two months. The cost of living has risen 3am, 25 percent. Virtually all vegetables have been reduced.

But, like her counterpart in America, the French homemaker is finding that the new prices still have to fall a lot more before there will be any substantial relief in the dinner table. Her children are eating better, but there's no meat, artichokes and tomatoes are out of the question—and she can't afford to serve an inexpensive chop three times a week.

As in the U. S., wage boosts have not kept pace with price increases. Basic wages, although legally under ceiling, have risen some 50 percent in the past year. Retail prices, on the other hand, are up 21 percent. The French workman is getting 10 or 11 times what he got before, but prices have multiplied 18 times.

In 1939, the French workman could purchase a good beefsteak for 12 francs per kilo; today it costs her 435 francs. Ham sold for 15.3 francs; today's price is 304 francs. Potatoes went for 1.4 francs; now they sell for 4 francs.

The average income for a French family is around 30,000 francs a month, far under the 100,000 francs a month a Paris American visitor, Mrs. Frederick Nelson, says is needed for her husband's job—not very much but enough. There is also the fact that witnessed a slow but persistent increase in unemployment, especially in the leather industry and in the building trades. There is also some "partial unemployment," with certain workers putting in less than a full 40-hour week.

The number of recipients of unemployment compensation is up 100 percent over 1948, but the total is still very small. The French government does not consider unemployment a problem as yet, but some of the labor unions—particularly those covering unskilled workers—are watching the situation closely.

Meany Calls For Rejection of Wood Bill On Eve of House Debate on Labor Law

Washington.—George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, assailed the Wood bill, introduced in the House as a substitute for the labor-backed Lesinski bill, as a "transparent disguise for Taft-Hartleyism at its worst."

In a radio address over the Mutual Broadcasting System network on the eve of the opening of debate on labor legislation in the House, Mr. Meany urged all members of that body to defeat the measure overwhelmingly and approve the "well-considered, fair and honest Lesinski bill.

The AFL leader charged that the reactionaries in the present Congress trotted out the substitute labor legislation in an effort to confuse the issue and to prevent the carrying out of the people's mandate for outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

Declaring that the "compromise" features in the Wood bill are an utter sham, Mr. Meany asserted that "the only changes, indeed, in the Wood bill is far more dangerous and repressive than the Taft-Hartley law, and is a single step in the direction of the Taft-Hartley law."

Mr. Meany launched into an analysis of the window dressing provisions to be cited as special benefits by the sponsors of the measure more palatable to the rank-and-file members of Congress, but November that the Taft-Hartley law has been the target for the reactionaries.

"When this 'new look' Wood bill is carefully scrutinized, it becomes apparent that it is coming apart at the seams and that the big Taft-Hartley slip is showing its ugly colors all over again. In other words, the Wood bill is a transparent disguise for Taft-Hartleyism at its worst.

"For instance, the evil of injunctions which has been used by the Taft-Hartley law, is enlarged, strengthened and made even more repressive by the Wood bill.

"Under Taft-Hartley, if charges and accusations of unfair practices committing unfair labor practices, the general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board was directed to refuse to conduct preliminary investigations of the charges and if he found there was real basis for them, it was his duty to apply to the federal courts for an injunction rest ining such practices.

"However, the Wood bill has streamlined that procedure considerably. It permits the general counsel for the NLRB to ask for injunctions the moment charges against a union are filed, without even bothering to check up on the accusations.

"As bad as it is, the Taft-Hartley law does contain a few safeguards against the issuance of indiscriminate injunctions in cases involving jurisdictional disputes. These safeguards are eliminated entirely by the Wood bill. The National Labor Relations Board and the courts are given complete discretionary authority to issue restraints against jurisdictional strikes without even affording the parties an opportunity to settle the dispute themselves."

In support of his charge that the "new look" features of the Wood bill are nothing but a sham to obscure the evils of the Taft-Hartley law which are retained in the measure, Mr. Meany declared:

"The Wood bill's provisions permitting employers to abuse free speech to attack and destroy unions is retained in full.

"Provisions are still left subject to the danger of damage suits in the federal courts.

"Restrictions against welfare funds, to see nothing but a sham to obscure the evils of the Taft-Hartley law which are retained in the measure, Mr. Meany declared:

"The Taft-Hartley law's attempts to outlaw and hobble by political activities by unions remain unchanged.

"The tricky and precedent-shattering provisions of the Taft-Hartley laws paramount to the federal law when state laws conflict and weaken the security provisions are more sweeping and drastic than the federal law.

"Exclusion of so-called supervisory employees from protection provided against employer discrimination or refusal to bargain collectively in connection with the Taft-Hartley law.

"The whole Taft-Hartley list of pre-fabricated unfair practices imposed against unions as the right to weaken and regulate them to the point that real union democracy is misincorporated in the Wood bill."

Labor's Indictment of T-H Set Forth in AFL Pamphlet

Washington.—Labor's indictment of the Taft-Hartley law is neatly summed up in a new pamphlet issued by the American Federation of Labor, entitled "Labor's Case Against Taft-Hartley."

The 30-page booklet brings together and boils down labor's arguments against the Taft-Hartley law, reported on by the labor law branch of AFL President William Green, has for its purpose "to make strong friends weak and weak friends weaker."

The pamphlet was distributed to all Congressmen on the eve of the opening of debate in the House on the labor legislation. It climaxed the continuing campaign of the AFL, begun with the original introduction of bills to repeal the law, and the recent adoption by convention of the Wagner Act with suitable amendments to strengthen unions and protect the public interest.

Assailing the Taft-Hartley law for its interference with collective bargaining, the pamphlet declares that "the most serious and damaging indictment of Taft-Hartley obstructionism in the field of labor relations is the restrictions of the American labor movement:

1. Taft-Hartley has put all unions under a cloud of suspicion.
2. Taft-Hartley has disrupted peaceful bargaining relations.
3. Taft-Hartley has turned the NLRB into a weapon against organized labor.
4. Taft-Hartley has helped employers to evade unionization.
5. Taft-Hartley has increased the difficulty of uniting together as a labor movement.
6. Taft-Hartley has increased hostility between employes and employers.
7. Taft-Hartley has hindered settlement of "national emergency strikes."

Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained by writing to the American Federation of Labor, Washington 1, D. C.

AFL Leaders Back Postal Pay Boost; Oppose Rise in Second-Class Mail Rate

New York.—Salary increases for postal employes were endorsed and urged here by AFL President William Green and Thomas F. Flaherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, and Joseph A. Moore, C. Langer of North Dakota.

The pay boost, now pending before the Senate Post Office committee, would provide for a pay increase of $650 a year, a 26-day annual vacation, and credit for longevity and service.

In addition, the speakers opposed the plan to boost second-class postal rates on grounds that smaller newspapers would suffer from increased cost of operation.

Mr. Doherty opposed the idea of tying salaries in any way with rates charged by the mail service. He said the post office is essentially a public service, not commercial. The rate reclassification had been used as smokescreen, "a red herring to drag attention from the main issue—the pay raise."

Mr. Green said that the AFL has always urged that the post office should be operated as a public service and not as a commercial enterprise. He declared that the AFL will spare no effort to rid Congress of the reactionaries, the reactionaries and its die-hard obstructionists in the 1950 elections.

Senator Langer said he, too, endorsed the pay raise for postal workers and employes as detailed by Mr. Doherty. He stated that he believed that the Congress would grant the postal employes' pay increase. He added that "the Senate will do all possible to get the bills passed."

FEDERAL CURB ON CREDIT RELAXED BY RESERVE BOARD

Washington.—The Federal Reserve Board acted to further relax federal curbs on installment buying. It was the second such action within a 2-month period.

The time limit for completing installment purchases was increased from 21 to 24 months and the down payment, on everything but automobiles, was cut from 15 to 10 percent.

In addition, furniture, appliances and other articles costing less than $100 were exempted from credit regulations.

FARMERS FACE 10% DROP IN NET INCOME FOR 1949

Washington.—The Agriculture Department said farmers' net income this year may be as much as 10 percent below the whopping $17,600,000,000 they took in last year.

Falling farm real estate prices already are reflecting the trend.

The department said prices received by farmers have been falling steadily in recent months while many of their fixed charges are remaining steady or even increasing.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

ILO American Regional Meeting Opens; AFL Men Participating in Conference

Montevideo, Uruguay. — The 4th regional conference of the American member states of the International Labor Organization opened here with 21 nations represented.

The conference launched into a heavy agenda which included discussion of the methods of adjustment of labor disputes, living conditions of farm and industrial workers in the Western Hemisphere, and consideration of the report submitted by David A. Morse, director-general of the ILO, which called for the further development of Latin America to intensify utilization of its vast resources.

George P. Delaney, international representative of the AFL, is attending the conference as a workers' representative of the ILO governing body. Representing U. S. workers is Philip Hannah, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Federation of Labor. Serafino Romualdi, Latin American representative for the AFL, is serving as his adviser. Jay Mazur, Assistant Secretary of Labor and former AFL-official, is the U. S. government delegate to the conference.

In his report to the conference Mr. Morse commended the practical spirit ready made in the development of Latin America. He declared, as he wrote, "have shown courage and initiative in bringing it up to the present stage of economic and social development; much progress has been made in developing certain natural resources, in building fine cities, and in creating a number of industries.

"This, however, is only a beginning. Great areas are sparsely inhabited and almost totally undeveloped, and vast resources remain untapped."

Any technical developments, he commented, must be "planned in relation to the resources and capital available at any time. If it is to be successfully carried out, first things must come first—for instance, necessities must be given priority over luxuries, and capital equipment must be imported before foreign exchange is used for non-essential goods. The best technical methods must be used in order to raise productivity."

Moreover, national planning should be supplemented by international cooperation, the ILO official observed, to avert danger that development programs in one area would adversely affect the programs of another.

In any cooperative effort to develop the region, "there is a fruitful role to be played by the United Nations and the various specialized agencies," Mr. Morse declared. He asserted that "The International Labor Organization stands ready to play its full part in this work by giving governments any assistance which they may desire and which it is able to render, either on its own or as part of the international team consisting of experts provided by the various United Nations and the specialized agencies for the purpose of giving technical assistance in connection with their economic development programs."

WFTU Committees Prepare For New 'Red' Campaign

By ADRIENNE TASSLER
European Correspondent for the AFL News Service

Paris.—The Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions wound up professional planning committee sessions here recently apparently without accomplishing its mission.

Although information was withheld from reporters, it was learned from "Humanite," official organ of the Communist party, that additional organizing conferences have been set for other trade departments. Goal of the sessions was to lay the groundwork for 5 new trade departments.

The article revealed that the miners' trade department organizing conference already have not yet been fixed. Food and agriculture trade departments are "not adequately prepared because of the diversity of unions and industries."

The WFTU seeks, through the establishment of new trade departments, to rival the existing international trade secretariats already in existence.

A communique announced that metal workers' representatives will meet next month at Turin; textiles, Lyon; hides and leather, Gottwaldov, Czechoslovakia.

Informed sources reported the sessions, late in starting, drew only small number of delegates. Among those reported to be present, besides their attendance, were delegates from the American and British trade unions, including Donald Henderson, president of the CIO's Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers.

The Paris meeting was clearly a rehearsal for the big Milan conference—scheduled June 29 to July 10—where formal birth of the proposed new trade departments is scheduled. According to reports, the WFTU will revise its statutes at that time to conform with original Soviet proposals at the Paris founding conference in October, 1945. In effect will impose WFTU headquarters direction over all policies of the national members, as in the old Red International.

In addition the meeting in Italy will attempt to stir up more violent strikes against "capitalist" governments. Among these, particularly, are those which are not Communist-dominated governments. Strikes and other economic sabotage will be planned. Soviet Russia will be exempted from such activities. Other movements to "defend" the working people of all countries against "enslavement" by American capitalist interests.

LLPE RADIO SERIES OUSTS FULTON LEWIS

Washington.—Labor's League for Political Education yesterday said here that radio station WJOE in Santa Ana, Calif., has dropped the news commentator, Fulton Lewis Jr., known for his anti-labor bias, in favor of the series of recorded programs prepared by the league for presentation over local stations as a part of its public service, educational campaign.

This was the most significant of the many reports received by LLPE testifying to the enthusiastic response given the series of 6 discussion programs on topics of current interest featuring congressional and AFL leaders.

LLPE Maps Vigorous Campaign For 1950; Plans Network of Units at Local Level

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—Labor's League for Political Education intends to go into the 1950 congressional election campaign with 80,000 precinct captains of its own, Director Joseph D. Keenan told the 22d annual convention of the Hotel & Restaurant Employes and Bartenders International Union, in Chicago.

Keenan and George Meany, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, another speaker, stressed the importance of effective political action in every congressional district to insure a more liberal Congress.

"We were successful in electing many people that we supported in 1948," said Keenan. "They are working with the American Federation of Labor, with the hope that we can repeal the Taft-Hartley law and enact a decent labor relations bill.

"We may not be successful, but that is just going to be a reason for us to carry on in a way that will make sure that people who are determined to destroy the labor movement realize that we mean business."

"We are going to keep Labor's League for Political Education going on a permanent basis. We are going to set up organizations in every central body and in every local union.

"In our every effort to get behind the army engineers, the Building Trades Department cited the fact that the engineers let the contract for construction of the big Buford Shoals dam in Arkansas to Brown & Root, one of the toughest "open shop" contractors in the nation.

Later, the AFL unions won an election among Brown & Root employes on the dam project, but the company refused to enter into an agreement. Meantime the company paid off wholesale "chiseling" on wages by paying skilled men prevailing rates and in other ways violated a federal law, Davis-Bacon Act, which requires payment of prevailing wages on construction jobs.

"Only the contracting agency is authorized to enforce that law, but the army engineers have shown no interest in enforcement," the Building Trades Department said.

"Again the army engineers have shown a complete disregard for the department asserted.

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Building Trades Hit U.S. Engineers

Washington.—The AFL's Building and Construction Trades Department charged that the army corps of engineers is violating the law in its organized labor.

For that reason, the department hailed a proposal that civilian functions of the corps be transferred to the Interior Department. This would help to set up organizations in every central body and in every local union.

As in many other branches of the army engineers, the Building Trades Department cited the fact that the engineers let the contract for construction of the big Buford Shoals dam in Arkansas to Brown & Root, one of the toughest "open shop" contractors in the nation.

Later, the AFL unions won an election among Brown & Root employes on the dam project, but the company refused to enter into an agreement. Meantime the company paid off wholesale "chiseling" on wages by paying skilled men prevailing rates and in other ways violated a federal law, Davis-Bacon Act, which requires payment of prevailing wages on construction jobs.

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German Trade Unionists Begin Study of U.S. Labor

Washington.—Eleven German trade unionists began the first of a series of 2-month inspection tours of the United States designed to show German workers the mechanics of democratic trade unionism, Joseph Isaman's point of view, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin announced.

Sent by the Manpower Division of Military Government, this and later groups will be sponsored by the Department of Labor's Office of International Labor Affairs. Eighty-six men in all will come from the western zones and Berlin.

The first group is spending its first week in Washington seeing the Congress, the federal agencies dealing in labor affairs, the national headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Railway Labor Executives' Association, and other labor and management organizations. The rest of the tour will take the visitors to cities where local trade unions will guide them. Yesterday, the group called on Secretary of Labor Tobin.

Secretary Tobin described the program as "an attempt to reinspire these workers and show them that democracy is real and that it is worth the fight.

"This won't be simply a sight-seeing tour," Secretary Tobin pointed out. "The schedule in Washington will include some real instruction in American labor affairs. The trips into the cities will be guided primarily by local unions and individual union members. We hope each German can live with an American worker, learn his problems and how trade unions here are run. They will also see management operation in the shops and factories and the relationship between the high living standard."

One of the purposes of the tour is to enable influential anti-Nazi and anti-Communist Germans to talk about the United States from personal observation, according to a statement issued by Military Government. Another purpose as to pass on practical information on how free unions organize, negotiate contracts, settle disputes amicably, and participate in the whole structure of democratic government.

BLS Publication, 'The Gift of Freedom,' Portrays Workers' Stake in U. S. Life

Washington.— 150-page illustrated book, "The Gift of Freedom," describing the level of living—on the job and off—of the American worker has been released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The book, according to bureau officials, is designed to inform the worker in foreign countries how his American counterpart lives. Eight chapters describe in detail: workers' economic environment; the economic basis for their living standards; what their wages will buy in terms of an hour's work; their standards of living; working conditions; and labor legislation; the history, development and influence of the labor movement; and the historical basis for personal and political liberty.

The volume takes its title from the theme of a 5-page introduction which refers to Walt Whitman's conception of America "as an inheritor and protector of world liberty" bought at a responsibility "as precious and sacred."

By example and by other means as well, it states, we must make good our obligation "to preserve and develop this gift of freedom American democracy held only in trust."

Our ability to do so, the introduction states, is tested by (1) whether workers prosper as the economy as a whole prospers; (2) the flexibility of the system in permitting "freedom of movement, choice, conscience and opportunity"; and (3) the progressive improvement of the status and influence of the worker. The facts are measurable, the introduction declares, and they show that the benefits of a free society is the right to "participate in the gains they have made extensive use of that right."

"The success of the American economic and social system alone which guarantees our liberties and security, but rather that any system which provides opportunity for the individual and allows him to participate to the fullest extent of his abilities and talents which best it, stands the greatest chance of maximum utilization of its human and natural resources."

Further questions on the book and the operation of the American system, it contends like "our ministers impede but do not halt our progress toward the goals we seek. Therefore the combination of circumstances necessary for "orderly democratic leadership" and reconstruction: free labor unions, social conscience, economic and social conscience, sacred regard for human dignity, and encouragement of capacity. Even more than our material wealth, these are the assets those free institutions of free men which we have built up in the course of any democratic social structure, that indeed is the gift of freedom."

Copies are available for 55 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Musicians' 802, N.Y. Stars, To Present Free Concerts

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—A program launched by the 802, American Federation of Musicians, to increase employment opportunities for its members is bearing fruit in concerts scheduled to be given in department store here.

The agreement has been consummated by the union with S. Klein, located on famed Union Square Park, whereby a series of 8 all-request concerts will be given outdoors on the late weekly shopping night.

To the department store executives, this venture is regarded as a method of increasing business by bringing customers to the Union Square area. To the musicians' local, this is a venture which may be adopted by other department stores in the metropolitan area, thus broadening the job base.

Under the terms of the agreement, Local 802 will sponsor 4 concerts to be paid for out of the Recording and Transcription Fund created by President Petrillo of the union. Another 4 concerts will be paid for by S. Klein as regular commercial ventures.

The first performance will be given by a band of 40 men, led by guest conductors, on May 4. Two of the nation's leading symphonic orchestra will be employed.

Customers will have an opportunity to vote on the selections they wish to hear. Printed ballots listing a wide variety of musical compositions will be distributed throughout the store. The most favored numbers will be included on the 8 programs.

The Recording and Transcription Fund was established several years ago by the American Federation of Musicians through a tax on each record sold. Since its phonograph record industry has no similar devices which have constricted musicians' jobs, President Petrillo felt that the money collected should be used to provide work-aid and aid musicians through free concerts in public institutions, hospitals, schools, and parks. Some of the money has already been paid out of the Recording and Transcription Fund, which is distributed by the union's executive board.

The department store deal is regarded as the harbinger of others which Local 802 plans to negotiate with other large establishments in the area.

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Henry Perham Dies; Was Pioneer Leader

Seattle.—One of the nation's oldest veterans of the American labor movement, Henry B. Perham, former member of the AFL Executive Council, died here at the age of 88.

Possessed of a keen mind and a strong sense of humor, Mr. Perham kept up his interest in organized labor until his long, varied and illustrious career came to an end after months of illness.

Once black-listed for his activities in the drive to organize telegraphers he persevered in the cause of labor and rose to the presidency of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers and one of the top leaders of the American Federation of Labor.

Born in Fulton, Perham came to the "New World" as a youth. He got his first job as telegrapher with the Grand Trunk in Ontario back in 1872, and followed the railroad when it went to work for the Denver & Rio Grande.

In 1886 Perham became chief of the O. R. T. on that carrier and held that position for 10 years. In 1896 a division, Boise after, he was elected general chairman of the system and ordered first rules agreement on the O. R. T. to be signed.

In 1897 he was elected grand secretary-treasurer and in 1899 was elevated to president, a post he occupied for 20 years. In the course of the next trying years of the union's history, from 1899 to 1907, and 1919, and later moved to Seattle but retained the interests he had in active interest in the order, attending all its conventions and conferences.

AFM Asks Repeal 20% Amusement Tax; Cites Ill Effects on Jobs For Musicians

New York.—The American Federation of Musicians called for the repeal or drastic reduction of the 20 percent federal amusement tax.

In an article in the union's publication, the International Musician, Leo Cleumann, editor of the journal, urged all union members to write or wire to Congressman "the disastrous effect the tax has had on the musician's livelihood."

The 20 percent amusement tax is imposed upon all establishments where musicians are employed, if dancing or singing is permitted.

"It is the aim of the AFM," Cleumann states, "to bring about a modification of the law in order to end detrimental effect upon the employment opportunities not only of members of the organization, but of all sorts of performers and entertainers in the amusement industry; it also affects adversely other employes, such as waiters, cooks, porters, and others."

Cleumann maintains that business has fallen off in night clubs and other spots where musicians are employed because "now that the customer discount its pennies" and object to paying the 20 percent tax on the bill. As a result many establishments have been closed or have installed mechanical music players, wired music or juke boxes.

"This results in unfair competition with live musicians," Cleumann maintains, "for ironically, mechanical music escapes the tax. The Treasury Department . . . In other words, an enraged all union members to be active in the privileges of having live talent, the privileges of having live talent, the tax has been established to destroy livelihood.

"Moreover, national planning should be supplemented by international cooperation, the ILO official observed, to avert danger that development programs in one area would adversely affect the programs of another.

In any cooperative effort to develop the region, "there is a fruitful role to be played by the United Nations and the various specialized agencies," Mr. Morse declared. He asserted that "The International Labor Organization stands ready to play its full part in this work by giving governments any assistance which they may desire and which it is able to render, either on its own or as part of the international team consisting of experts provided by the various United Nations and the specialized agencies for the purpose of giving technical assistance in connection with their economic development programs."

Expansion of Apprentice Training Plans Aided by Labor-Management Teamwork

Washington.—Effective cooperation between labor, management and governmental agencies has produced the current record expansion of apprentice training, William F. Patterson, director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship, Labor Department, has declared.

Patterson spoke at a conference held at the Naval Gun Factory for representatives of the Navy Training Division, Office of Industrial Relations. Under the program civilians are trained in apprenticeship classifications needed by the navy. Patterson said:

"Good cooperation between employers, unions and governmental agencies has produced the current record apprenticeship has been the most effective tool which has brought about the present increasing activity in the field of apprenticeship. Between January, 1948, and January, 1949, the number of apprentices employed in all the skilled trades registered with the Bureau of Apprenticeship or state apprenticeship agencies has increased from 120,000 to 150,000, a 25 percent gain time record.

"Government interference in labor is voluntary, this teamwork in the apprenticeship field is typical of the standing testimonial to democracy at its best. Government has encouraged between employers and their employees to settle their differences by industrial relations.

"Patterson at a conference table and discussing matters related to apprenticeship, then drafted on the most trying years of the union's history, from 1907 to 1909, and 1919, and later moved to Seattle but retained the interests he had in active interest in the order, attending all its conventions and conferences.

IATSE LOCAL UNION WHIPS UMW IN POLL

Philadelphia.—The widely-heralded move by District 50, United Mine Workers of America, to sign up scores of employes in the nation's film theaters was brought to a halt here where it faced its first test.

In a collective-bargaining election conducted by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board, projectionists, ushers, matrons, cleaners and porters at theaters throughout the city gave more than a 5-to-1 vote of confidence to the American Federation of Labor union which had represented them for 11 years—Local B-100 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Operators of the United States and Canada.

Total vote was 472 for the IATSE local, 212 for District 50, 22 for no union and 2 for the Employes' Negotiation Committee, a group twice had thrown its support to the Mine Workers after obtaining a place on the ballot.

AFL PRINTERS WIN $5 RISE; WORK WITHOUT CONTRACT

Seattle.—An agreement granting a wage increase of $5 a week May 1 to commercial printers here was announced. It was approved by Local No. 32, International Typographical Union, AFL, and publishers of the two daily newspapers, the Times and the Post-Intelligencer.

Charles T. Hickey, president, said that the union would continue to work without a contract as it had in the past year.

Wage scales for a 35-hour week will be $66 for day work and $100 for night work.

LESS U. S. INTERFERENCE URGED FOR LABOR RELATIONS

Atlantic City, N. J.—Dr. George W. Taylor, chairman of the National War Labor Board, urged as little government interference in labor-management relations as possible.

In an address before the Society for the Advancement of Management here Aug. 11, 1949, but the union has the opportunity to reopen wage talks only during the life of the contract.

"The guide to all labor legislation should be whether the government can solve the problem better than the parties themselves," the president said that although the packinghouse workers contract expires in 1950, the increase since 1945, their present contract provides "is less favorable than it was in 1945."

FACTORY AUTO SALES JUMP 21% IN MONTH

Detroit—March factory sales of motor vehicles totaled 618,118 units, an increase of more than 21 percent above February, the Automobile Manufacturers Association said here.

The month's total, which included 402,856 passenger cars and 115,716 trucks and buses, set a postwar high — topping every other month since June, 1941.

Housing Starts Decline 12% Below 1948; Activity Last Year Highest in 23 Years

Washington.—Construction of new homes in the first quarter of 1949 fell down to the lowest level since the number of units started last year, according to reports prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

At the same time, the BLS said, expenditures for new construction, the 22d successive month of increase, a gain of 5 percent over the 1948 figures.

In the employment field, the report said, activity during the period ran on contract construction projects as the month of March, to a total of 19,000 over the similar month a year before.

For the month of March alone, the BLS said that new home construction starts totaled 91,000 units, 12 percent below the number started a year before.

Against this disappointing showing for 1949, with the housing shortage remains acute, the BLS reported that last year 1948 was the highest year for housing activity. Complete reports of housing starts boosted the year's total to 931,500 units. This is 23 percent above the 1947 total, and is only 6,000 units below the all-time high reported in 1925.

Reporting on other long-term developments, the BLS said:

"In the 3 full years since the end of the war, there have been 2,451,000 new permanent nonfarm dwelling units started and 2,200,000 completed. The acceleration in housing activity during the period has been more pronounced in rural nonfarm areas, where there was a 72 percent increase in rural nonfarm starts between 1946 and 1948, compared with a 30 percent increase in urban areas. In the latter year, 1948, rural nonfarm housing accounted for 23 percent of all nonfarm starts and 27 percent of completions.

"The average construction cost, excluding land costs and builders' profits, of all privately financed 1-family houses rose 43 percent between 1939 and 1948, from $7,071 to $10,100. Increase takes into account not only the rise in costs of materials, labor and other building costs, but also the trend in the type of homes being built.

"Over-all increases in construction costs were only "incidental" to other building costs.

The union argued that the company was violating the terms of their contracts" in an effort to escape the present 40-cent minimum wage.

JOBLESS PAY BENEFITS SHOW RISE OVER 1947

Washington.—State unemployment agencies paid out $371,621,000 in benefits to jobless men and women during the first three months of this year, the Federal Security Agency reported.

During March the average weekly number of claimants was 1,732,000.

While up sharply from last year the payments were still well below the level of early 1946, during the post-war reconversion period, the agency